

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, the President released his February 2014 budget proposal this morning, and now for the first time in over 4 years, the House and the Senate and the President all have submitted budget blueprints showing their priorities for getting our Nation's finances back in good standing.

In the House, our budget balances within 10 years by slowing the growth of government, responsibly and carefully reforming Federal spending, while strengthening and preserving Medicare and Social Security for future generations. And the House budget pays down the national debt to zero within our lifetimes.

Just 12 weeks ago, taxes went up on every American; yet, unfortunately, the President's plan raises taxes again on Americans while increasing spending, growing the size of government, and never, ever balancing.

Mr. Speaker, the American people want balance in Congress, and they want a balanced budget. As we go forward, let's do our job and control spending. Let's balance our own books, and let's stop the constant push for higher taxes on the American people.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded not to traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

PROTECTING EARNED BENEFITS

(Mr. NOLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to set the record straight here with regard to Social Security and Medicare:

First of all, neither one of them are responsible for the debt and the current fiscal crisis that we find ourselves facing;

Secondly, neither of them are entitlements. They're earned benefits that people started paying for the very first day, the very first hour they went to work, and they have every right to expect those benefits;

Thirdly, there are some long-term problems with both, and they should and need to be fixed, but they can be done, clearly, without reducing the benefits.

Let me remind all of us that nothing has done more in this country to lift more people out of poverty than Social Security, and nothing has done more to add more life and more years to life than Medicare.

Mr. President, my fellow Members, we must stand up for Social Security and Medicare and protect those benefits going forward.

CONTROLLING GOVERNMENT SPENDING

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, this morning was a remarkable time. The President, even though it's 65 days late, came out with a budget today. And it is interesting to note that it is about \$600 billion of new taxes, after we've just had a \$620 billion tax increase on this economy, with the health care bill, about another \$1.2 trillion of new taxes and fees, and his budget proposal increases the size of government 50 percent over the next 10 years.

Mr. Speaker, I've been home for the last couple of weeks talking to constituents, and what they tell me is the fact that they want a balanced budget. The President's budget never gets to balance. Our budget does. They want a balanced budget. They want us to get control of spending in Washington because they know how it affects themselves, their families, and the future of this country.

The spending coupled with all of the new regulations, the health care mandates coming down on small businesses, they are stopping job growth. We have got to get some common sense in this House.

SEQUESTRATION

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, sequestration has been in effect for 41 days, and already it is hurting American families. Just outside my district at Fort Knox, more than 5,000 civilian employees face at least 2 weeks of furlough because of these indiscriminate cuts in Federal spending.

A constituent of mine whose husband is a military technician for the Kentucky National Guard said her family will lose close to 20 percent of their income because of furloughs. He is one of at least 460 technicians in my district who will be furloughed.

I've talked with a school principal who's forced to lay off special education teachers because of sequestration. I've met with local social service organizations who are concerned that sequestration will eliminate entire Federal grant programs, jeopardizing jobs and essential services for Louisville families. And officials at the University of Louisville are worried that cuts to their research will interrupt lifesaving medical advances.

Mr. Speaker, sequestration was a threat, not a policy. That's why I voted against it. It now is clear that the real threat of sequestration is to middle class families who can least afford another recession. Congress should enact a budget that eliminates sequestration and spares even more American families the pain of this ill-advised austerity.

A BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, we've all heard the statement "a day late and a dollar short." Well, the President is now 2 months late with his budget and billions of dollars short. It's clear, this President wants to balance the increase of government on the backs of the American people. He believes that government needs the resources more than hardworking Americans.

We put forward a budget to be able to protect our senior citizens, to be able to build for the future for our children. The real approach, when we're talking about balance, is to have a budget that truly balances.

This administration continues to grow government, continues to waste the hardworking dollars of the American taxpayer.

Let's stand up and put politics aside and stand up for the people of this country and put forward a budget that will truly put America back to work.

CREATING JOBS

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today about the urgent need to create jobs and grow our economy, an issue that should be our number one focus right now. We are nearly a month and a half into the sequester, which has imposed painful cuts to defense, transportation, and education, and it's hurting our economy.

I'm disappointed the House Republican leadership chose the path of the sequester rather than working with House Democrats to stop these needless, across-the-board cuts. I'm also disappointed that House Republicans have chosen the politics of brinksmanship and government shutdowns rather than negotiate a compromise with Democrats.

We must stop politicizing every function of government from the debt ceiling to the budget. Creating jobs and strengthening our economy starts with the private sector and government working together to ensure confidence and investment across the country.

I encourage all of my colleagues to come together and focus on jobs. Let's work on legislation that helps our constituents obtain jobs and grows our economy.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE

(Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, prescription drug abuse is killing more people in this country than car wrecks. It's hard to believe, but it sneaked up on us.